

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08581 181656Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 EB-07 INR-07  
L-03 NSC-05 DODE-00 /052 W  
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P R 181646Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8369  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08581

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, GW, UK, FR, US, WB  
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BERLIN FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL

REF: BONN 8389 (EXDIS)

SUMMARY: FRG FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PROPOSED INFORMAL BCATAG CONSIDERATION OF IMPENDING BERLIN AIR SERVICES FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL SO THAT GERMAN VIEWS WOULD BE KNOWN TO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS BEFORE FINAL DECISION IS MADE TO APPROVE OR REJECT THE PROPOSAL. EMBASSY SUPPORTS THIS IDEA SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT UNREASONABLY DELAY PROCESSING OF THE PROPOSAL.

1. AT MEETING WITH ALLIED CIVAIRATTS MAY 17, FOREIGN OFFICE AVIATION OFFICIALS JIRKA AND HELD PROPOSED A CHANGE IN PROCEDURE OF BCATAG CONSIDERATION OF INNER GERMAN SERVICE (IGS) FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL. THEY SAID THAT IN PAST, SOME MEMBERS OF BCATAG HAD FELT THAT ALLIES WERE ALREADY DETERMINED TO APPROVE PROPOSAL AND THAT BCATAG CONSIDERATION WAS LARGELY MEANINGLESS, PRO FORMA EXERCISE. THE PROVISION OF PERFORMANCE FIGURES SEPARATE FROM A FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE BCATAG PARTICIPATION MORE MEANINGFUL,  
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BUT, THIS YEAR AT LEAST, THESE FIGURES WERE NOT FORTH-COMING UNTIL A FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL WAS ALREADY IN PROCESS.

2. JIRKA AND HELD PROPOSE THAT BCATAG DISCUSSION OF THE PERFORMANCE FIGURES BE TURNED INTO AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE NEW FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL. THEY

HOPE THAT THE POINTS BROUGHT OUT IN THE DISCUSSION WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EXPERTS IN CAPITALS BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE ON WHETHER OR NOT THE INCREASE IS JUSTIFIED. WHEN THE ALLIES HAD APPROVED A FARE PROPOSAL THERE WOULD BE A MORE FORMAL BCATAG SESSION TO DISCUSS IT AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

3. THE CAA'S MAINTAINED THAT AT THE TIME LAST YEAR'S FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED TO BCATAG IT WAS NOT A FAIT ACCOMPLI, AND THAT, IF BCATAG HAD COME UP WITH CONVINCING ARGUMENTS TO DO SO, IT COULD HAVE BEEN MODIFIED. JIRKA ACCEPTED THIS BUT ARGUED THAT IT HAD SEEMED LIKE A FAIT ACCOMPLI TO SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS. HE NOTED THAT BCATAG COULD NOT DECIDE BUT ONLY ADVISE, BUT SAID IT WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE "PSYCHOLOGICAL" VALUE IF THE FOREIGN OFFICE PROPOSAL WERE ACCEPTED.

4. COMMENT: THE BCATAG MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PERFORMANCE FIGURES FOR 1976 WILL INEVITABLY TURN INTO A CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR A FARE INCREASE. THE ONLY REAL CONCESSION THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS ASKING IS THAT THE ALLIES GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THE VIEWS DEVELOPED IN THAT MEETING BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EXPERTS EVALUATING THE AIRLINES' PROPOSAL EARLY ENOUGH TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY THE EXPERTS IN THEIR JUDGEMENT OF THE JUSTIFICATION FOR AN INCREASE. FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THE DECISION RESTS WITH THE US. THE UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE HAS ALREADY APPROVED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BA REQUEST, AND THE FRENCH WILL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER WE AND THE UK PROPOSE.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO GO ALONG WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE PROPOSAL SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT UNREASONABLY DELAY THE PROCESSING OF THE FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED, AS WOULD AN INDICATION OF HOW LATE BCATAG VIEWS COULD BE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AND STILL BE A MEANINGFUL PART OF USG CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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